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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **HB 6580**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING FAILURE TO FILE A REPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE.***

##### **SUMMARY:**

The law requires individuals, entities, and committees that make or obligate to make independent expenditures (IEs) over \$1,000 in the aggregate to file IE reports with the State Elections Enforcement Commission (SEEC). This bill increases the maximum (1) civil penalties SEEC may impose for failure to file or failure to timely file an IE report and (2) fine a court may impose for a knowing and willful failure to file.

Specifically, the bill increases the maximum penalty that SEEC may impose from (1) \$5,000 to \$7,500 for failure to file or timely file more than 90 days before a primary or general election and (2) \$10,000 to \$15,000 for failure to file or timely file 90 days or less before a primary or general election. These reports are considered timely if the individual, entity or committee files them within 48 and 24 hours, respectively, after making or obligating to make the IE.

By law, a knowing and willful failure to file an IE report is a crime. The bill increases, from \$5,000 to \$7,500, the maximum fine that a court may impose for such a failure. Such a failure is also punishable by up to five years in prison or both a fine and imprisonment.

Finally, the bill makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

##### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/27/2013)